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City of Branson

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NEWS RELEASE

April 14th, 2015

Contact: Garrett Anderson, economic development director, 417-337-8589

Action taken by Branson Board of Aldermen

Action taken by Branson Board of Aldermen at the April 14th, 2015 meeting

SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Following the April 7th Municipal Election, the City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Karen Best, who now serves as the 22nd Mayor of Branson. Three Aldermen who were re-elected and again took the Oath of Office tonight; Bob Simmons (Ward 1), Patrick Parnell (Ward 2), and Rick Todd (Ward 3). Ward 3 Alderman Rick Davis was elected by the Board members to continue to serve as the Mayor Pro-Tem.



Mayor Karen Best takes the oath of office, as the Board looks on.



Bob Simmons is sworn in for another two-year term as Alderman for Ward 1



Patrick Parnell is sworn in for another two-year term as Alderman for Ward 2



Rick Todd is sworn in for another two-year term as Alderman for Ward 3

RECOGNITIONS

Outgoing Mayor Raeanne Presley was thanked for her many years of service to the Branson Board of Aldermen. She served as an Alderman for Ward 1 for many years, and as Mayor for the past 8 years.

Employee of the Month – Police Officer Caleb Tieg was recognized as the April 2015 City of Branson Employee of the Month. Caleb was the first emergency responder to arrive on the scene of a house fire. As he investigated the home, he heard a woman screaming, and identified the victim on a 2nd story deck. He was able to carry her from danger and to the waiting medical personnel. His courage and quick response certainly saved her life.



Officer Caleb Tieg receives his plaque from Alderman Bob Simmons

Green Initiative Awards recognizes local businesses for their efforts in sustainability and recycling.

- **Branson Convention Center**, and their operator SMG, reduced their electric usage by 25% since April 1st. They have also implemented glass recycling, composting, and many efforts to reduce overall energy consumption.



- **Paws and Hands United** recycles to raise money for their organization. Currently have 3 drop off locations and volunteers pick up cans in Branson and Hollister for those not able to drop off.



Neighborhood Grant Awards were awarded to three Branson Neighborhood Organizations for community improvement projects. This is the second year of this grant program.

- The Hiawatha Heights Neighborhood will use their grant to continue their community garden efforts, begun with last year's grant.

Neighborhood Representative Jim Lawson (second from left) receives grant check from City Staff Joel Hornickel, Kim Varner, and Aldermen Rick Todd, Cris Bohinc, Rick Davis and Patrick Parnell.



- The Lucia Ridge Neighborhood will use their grant to create a new gathering space in Nygard Park, with picnic tables and a new concrete pad.

Neighborhood Representatives Lacy Barlow, Jackie Young and Joe McDowell receive grant check from City Staff Joel Hornickel, Kim Varner, and Aldermen Patrick Parnell & Cris Bohinc.

- The Branson North neighborhood will use their grant to continue improvements to their entrance signage, begun with last year's grant.

Neighborhood Representatives Dave Edie, Merrillyn Fish, Mary Elizabeth Bradley and Marilyn Whetstone receive grant check from City Staff Joel Hornickel, Kim Varner, and Aldermen Mike Booth & Bob Simmons.



The Taney County Health Department recognized the City of Branson with the first-ever Public Health Champion award, in appreciation of the City's contributions to public health in the community. Examples of recent efforts included the adoption of updated health codes, and the passage of the city-wide smoke-free ordinance.



The Board of Aldermen receives the Public Health Champion Award from TCHD Board Members Buddy Roberts, Beth Huddleston and Debbie Redford.

CONSENT AGENDA - SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE BILLS

Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from various recent meetings.

Convention Center

The Board also approved the final reading of two bills in relation to the city-owned Branson Convention Center. The first amends the 2014 City Budget to adjust the Convention Center fund to correct for expenses in excess of the established budget. The second authorized as incentive fee to SMG, the Convention Center operator, in accordance with targets established by contract.

Sewer Easement

The Board approved the final reading of a bill repealing Ordinance 2015-0006 and approving the vacation of a 20-foot sewer easement in the Branson Hills Development Phase 10. This action corrects the legal description in an action earlier this year, relinquishing a public water line easement that is no longer needed.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS (1st Readings and public hearings)

Debt Service Reserve

The Board postponed the final reading of a bill approving an amendment to the Debt Service Reserve forward delivery agreement. This is a restructuring of the reserve based on a recent refinancing of municipal bonds, in relation to the Branson Landing project.

Grant Application

The Board approved a resolution stating the City of Branson's intent to seek funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program. The grant seeks funding for the demolition of the Leisure Country Inn, one of the last remaining tornado-damaged properties from the 2012 tornado. The property 13,000 square foot building has been declared a dangerous building by the Board of Alderman, clearing the way for demolition by the City. The grant will pay for 80% of the demolition costs.

Empire Electric Agreement

The Board approved the first reading of a bill approving a Municipal Electric Service Agreement (MESA) with Empire District Electric Company. The agreement covers such items as streetlights and the use of power at municipal facilities and is renewed every 10 years.

Utility Easement

The Board approved the first reading of a bill approving an easement for a fiber optic line in the Branson Landing development.

Development Agreement

The Board approved the first reading of a bill approving a Labor and Materials Reimbursement Agreement with Fogle Enterprises. Under the agreement, Pasghetti's Restaurant will construct a wide pedestrian promenade in front of the new restaurant. The city will reimburse certain expenses and link adjacent properties to the promenade, when the Highway 76 Complete Streets Project is implemented in this area later this year.

Vehicle Purchases

The Board approved the first reading of several bills approving the purchase of new vehicles for the Utilities and Public Works Departments. Vehicles are purchased on the “State Bid” using the volume purchasing power of the State of Missouri, for better pricing.

- 2016 International 7500 truck with snow plow, spreader and dump bed from Navistar
- 2015 ¾ ton four wheel drive from Putnam Chevrolet
- 2015 one-ton four wheel drive from Putnam Chevrolet
- 2015 four wheel drive ½ ton pickup from Republic Ford
- 2016 four wheel drive SUV from Republic Ford

Zoning Code Revision

The Board also approved the first reading of a bill accepting the proposal of Spencer Fane Britt and Browne LLP for consulting services pertaining to the updating of the City of Branson Zoning Code. This process will allow the city to move forward with several dozen recommendations suggested by the citizens during the creation of the Community Plan 2030, adopted in 2012.

New Sewer Main

The Board approved the first reading of a bill accepting the proposal of Altom Construction Co. LLC, for construction of a new gravity sewer main. Due to recent upgrades to the sewer system, this new sewer main can be installed to replace the existing lift station #19, in the area of Expressway Lane. Lift stations are used to overcome hilly terrain, to bring waste to the plant for treatment. The change will result in significant cost savings.

Ammunition Contract

The Board also approved the first reading of a bill accepting the proposal of Gulf States Distributor to purchase ammunition for the Police Department.

(Background materials on all agenda items, including audio of the entire Board of Aldermen meeting can be accessed by going to www.bransonmo.gov and clicking on the “Agendas & Minutes” button on the right side of the website homepage.)